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Letter dated 27 August 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I wish to draw your attention to the latest incidents of Palestinian terrorism that have claimed the lives of eight Israelis in the last four days.

Late Saturday night, Palestinian terrorists ambushed an Israeli vehicle in which a married couple was travelling with their young children, along the road between Jerusalem and the city of Modiin. Sharon and Yaniv Ben-Shalom were killed instantly in the attack, and their children, ages 6 months and 18 months, were both wounded. Doron Sviri, 21, the driver of the vehicle and the brother of Mrs. Ben-Shalom, died Sunday evening after suffering critical wounds in the attack.

On Friday night, 24 August 2001, two Palestinian terrorists attacked an Israeli army outpost with gunfire and grenades. Three Israeli soldiers were killed in the attack, and another seven were wounded. At least one of the attackers was a member of the Palestinian police.

Yesterday afternoon, Dov Roizman, age 58, was shot by Palestinian terrorists as he sat in his car near the entrance to the village of Zaita. Roizman had gone to purchase marble in the village and two gunmen, apparently expecting his arrival, set an ambush and murdered him in his vehicle.

In the latest attack, Meír Lixemberg, a 38-year-old father of five, was riding in a car between the communities of Har Bracha and Itamar when he was shot by Palestinian terrorists. He was airlifted to a hospital where he died this evening of his wounds.

These attacks are merely the latest incidents in a dangerously escalating campaign of terrorism that has been detailed in my letters dated 13 August 2001 (A/56/294-S/2001/787), 9 August 2001 (A/56/286-S/2001/780), 8 August 2001 (A/56/280-S/2001/775), 6 August 2001 (A/56/272-S/2001/768), 27 July 2001 (A/56/225-S/2001/743), 26 July 2001 (A/56/223-S/2001/737), 17 July 2001 (A/56/201-S/2001/706), 13 July 2001 (A/56/184-S/2001/696), 3 July 2001

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(A/56/138-S/2001/662), 2 July 2001 (A/56/131-S/2001/656), 21 June 2001 (A/56/119-S/2001/619), 19 June 2001 (A/56/98-S/2001/611), 18 June 2001 (A/56/97-S/2001/604), 13 June 2001 (A/56/92-S/2001/585), 11 June 2001 (A/56/91-S/2001/580), 4 June 2001 (A/56/85-S/2001/555), 30 May 2001 (A/56/81-S/2001/540), 25 May 2001 (A/56/80-S/2001/524), 18 May 2001 (A/56/78-S/2001/506), 11 May 2001 (A/56/72-S/2001/473), 9 May 2001 (A/56/69-S/2001/459), 1 May 2001 (A/55/924-S/2001/435), 23 April 2001 (A/55/910-S/2001/396), 16 April 2001 (A/55/901-S/2001/364), 28 March 2001 (A/55/863-S/2001/291), 27 March 2001 (A/55/860-S/2001/280), 26 March 2001 (A/55/858-S/2001/278), 19 March 2001 (A/55/842-S/2001/244), 5 March 2001 (A/55/821-S/2001/193), 2 March 2001 (A/55/819-S/2001/187), 14 February 2001 (A/55/787-S/2001/137), 13 February 2001 (A/55/781-S/2001/132), 2 February 2001 (A/55/762-S/2001/103), 25 January 2001 (A/55/748-S/2001/81), 23 January 2001 (A/55/742-S/2001/71), 28 December 2000 (A/55/719-S/2000/1252), 22 November 2000 (A/55/641-S/2000/1114), 20 November 2000 (A/55/634-S/2000/1108) and 2 November 2000 (A/55/540-S/2000/1065).

The State of Israel holds Chairman Yasser Arafat and the Palestinian Authority responsible for these attacks, two of which were perpetrated by individuals connected to Chairman Arafat's own Fatah faction. In addition, convicted terrorists continue to operate freely and with impunity, the Palestinian media remains rife with incitement to hatred and violence, and Chairman Arafat has, in flagrant violation of his signed commitments, steadfastly refused to take any concerted action to prevent attacks on Israeli civilians and to control the instruments of terror.

Israel again calls upon the Palestinian Authority to fulfil its obligations to renounce the use of terror and violence and to resolve all outstanding issues through dialogue and negotiations. The use of terror as a political tool is an abhorrent practice that contravenes all accepted norms and principles of international law and custom and, as such, our response to it must be firm and unequivocal. No gains will accrue to those who seek to advance their political aims by deliberately spilling the blood of innocents.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter circulated as a document of the fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly, under item 178 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Yehuda **Lancry**
Permanent Representative